



*Remarks by Major General Phillip R. Anderson,  
Commander, Mississippi Valley Division,  
at the Helena and Vicinity, Arkansas Project,  
Groundbreaking Ceremony, 11 April 2000*

Senator Lincoln, Congressman Berry, Mayor Miller,  
distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen.

Good afternoon. It is indeed a pleasure to be  
here today. One of the most satisfying moments  
for an engineer is the groundbreaking for a  
project, and I'm honored to be a part of today's  
ceremony.

I'd like to introduce members of the Mississippi  
River Commission here with me today:

We have **Mr. Sam Angel** -- Mr. Angel is from Lake Village, Arkansas, and has been a member of the Mississippi River Commission since 1979. He is a Chicot County planter and ginner, and currently serves as president of Epstein Land Company and Epstein Gin Company in Lake Village, and president of Chicot Warehouse, Inc., in Eudora.

Next, is **Mr. R. D. James** -- Mr. James lives in New Madrid, Missouri, and has been a member of the Mississippi River Commission since 1981.

He is a self-employed farmer and manager of cotton gins and grain elevators for the A.C. Riley Company in New Madrid.

**Mr. Clifford Smith** is the newest civilian member of the commission. He was appointed to the MRC in October 1998. Mr. Smith is President and Chief Operating Officer of T. Baker Smith & Son, Inc., in Houma, Louisiana. He is a registered civil engineer in the states of Louisiana and Mississippi.

One of the military members of the commission is **Rear Admiral Nicholas Prahl**, who is Director of the Atlantic and Pacific Marine Centers of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, headquartered in Norfolk, Virginia. ADM Prahl's nomination to the Mississippi River Commission is in process.

Next is **Brigadier General Carl Strock** --

GEN Strock is Commander and Division Engineer of the Corps' Northwestern Division, headquartered in Portland, Oregon. His nomination to the MRC is also in process.

One MRC member could not be with us on this trip.

**Brigadier General Robert Griffin**, who is Commander and Division Engineer of the Corps' Great Lakes and Ohio River Division, headquartered in Cincinnati, Ohio. GEN Griffin had commitments out of the country.

Speaking on behalf of all the commissioners, it is a pleasure to be here today and to share in this ceremony with you.

You have my sincere congratulations on reaching this milestone.

As you well know, these are troubling times for our government, its work force, and its people.

We are facing a number of water resource challenges in the 21st Century -- to include major issues in the areas of waterway transportation, flood protection, ecosystem restoration, water supply, infrastructure, and emergency response.

However, with challenges, come opportunities as well. And I see numerous opportunities throughout the Mississippi Valley where the Corps and its partners can accomplish the water resource goals of our communities.

Together, we can better control flooding, improve and sustain our navigation system, be better stewards of the environment, respond to natural disasters, and provide recreational opportunities to all Americans.

And with the continued support of the public, the administration, and Congress, the Corps will help meet the needs, and challenges, of the 21st century.

The Corps has a long and proud history of service to this nation and its people. A great trust has been placed in the Corps to conduct studies and recommend projects that balance the competing goals of many interests in an unbiased manner.

Let me assure you, that trust has been and still is well founded.

Today's ceremony speaks well of the Corps mission and the faith the nation puts in the Corps and the Memphis District. The citizens of the United States have provided some very scarce dollars for this project.

And as the first shovel of dirt is turned, a new era of flood protection begins for Helena and the surrounding vicinity.

I would like to express my appreciation to the many people who've helped reach this milestone.

Thank you.